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General Trettner & the Curate's Egg

By the Editor

A long time back, in 1895, the humorous weekly "Punch" published a joke which has passed into the English language. A young curate was shown at breakfast with his intimidating bishop, and the caption read like this:

"I'm afraid you've got a bad egg, Mr Jones."

"Oh no, my Lord, I assure you! Parts of it are excellent."

I was reminded forcibly of this hoary classic last week, when, following queries from all over the world, the West German authorities assured the public that the newly-appointed commander in chief of the West German armed forces, General Heinrich Trettner, was "excellent in parts".

The facts of the Trettner case are as follows:

In January 1964, General Trettner was appointed Inspector General of the Bundeswehr, a post equivalent to commander in chief of all West German forces.

At a press conference in East Berlin on February 27th 1964, documentary evidence was produced that Trettner had made a lightning career as an officer of the nazi Wehrmacht, rising from the rank of captain at the beginning of the war to the rank of lieutenant general at the end of the war when he was only 37.

During his nazi military career, it was charged, he had served in the "Condor Legion", the nazi air fleet which aided Franco in the Spanish Civil War, and had taken part in the notorious raid on Guernica; he had personally ordered the mass bombing of Rotterdam, Holland, in May 1940, after a cease fire had been arranged; he had commanded the 4th Paratroop Division in northern Italy, which murdered civilian hostages and destroyed part of Florence despite promises that it would be treated as an open city.

Immediately after the East Berlin press conference, spokesmen of the Defence Ministry in Bonn attempted to brush off the charges as "the usual Communist propaganda".

Queries and protests continued to come in from all parts of the world, however, and on April 13th the West German Defence Ministry issued a long memorandum attempting to whitewash the new commander in chief.

The main point made by this memorandum was that "Trettner had a perfectly normal military career" during the nazi period. The Ministry did not find it necessary to make any excuses for the fact that Trettner served Hitler faithfully in leading positions until May 1945; all senior officers of the Bundeswehr, without exception, are in the same position.

Dealing with the specific charges, the Bonn authorities denied that Trettner had taken personal part in the raid on Guernica; they admitted that he had served in the "Condor Legion" as a staff captain.

With regard to the raid on Rotterdam, the Bonn memorandum denied that Trettner had anything to do with it. Trettner himself, quoted in "The Times", London on April 15th, has a different story. Here is the report in "The Times":

"Trettner described the bombing of Rotterdam as a tragic misunderstanding, owing to the failure of the Dutch and the Germans to appreciate that they were not using the same time... The attack against the city, which was defended and occupied by troops, was, however, fully justified militarily, General Trettner said."

Dealing with the charges about Trettner's actions in Italy in 1944, the Bonn Defence Ministry memorandum confined itself to the careful statement that Trettner and his 4th Paratroop Division had not been named in post-war Italian publications on war crimes. Here too, Trettner, as reported in "The Times" had a rather different version: "Trettner said that responsibility for the city (Florence) was not his division's, but that of a battalion detached for the purpose, and withdrawn from his command... One should not speak of guilt in the matter, General Trettner said. The destructions in Florence were the upshot of errors committed on both sides. The guilt had to be placed squarely on the war itself."

The exact details of Trettner's actions in Italy will probably not become known unless the US authorities agree to open for study the divisional papers of Trettner's Paratroop Division, which are believed to be held in the Federal Records Center, Alexandria, Virginia.

But even without this precise information the West German authorities are having a tough job trying to prove that Trettner's record, like the curate's egg, is excellent in parts.

WHAT IS MLF?

"Peace News" Probes the Question

Many people have only the vaguest idea what MLF — the Multi-Lateral Force — really is. A useful summary, written by Adam Roberts and published by "Peace News", London, on April 10th, is reprinted below. It should be noted that the author, and the sources he quotes, repeatedly say "Germany" when they mean "West Germany", and "Europe" when they mean the NATO states.

The MLF ist the proposed fleet of 25 surface ships, each armed with eight Polaris nuclear missiles with a range of over 2,000 miles. The ships would have crew members from all NATO countries which join in the project, and representatives of those countries would participate in decisions about the use of the missiles.

The MLF proposal, which has been pushed seriously by Washington since 1962, is just beginning to take concrete shape. The US missile-carrying destroyer Biddle is to serve as a test-bed for the proposal, and starting on July 15 American members of its crew will begin to be replaced by Europeans. Twenty-six British sailors will go aboard, and West Germany will have the largest contingent, of 49 men. Seven NATO countries will be taking part (US, West Germany, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Holland, and Britain), and all will have men on board the Biddle by December. Taking part in this test does not commit those involved to support the MLF.

That only seven member states of NATO are taking part in this test may appear surprising, as NATO has altogether fourteen members. In spite of all the talk about "interdependence" with which the MLF is surrounded, hardly anyone in NATO seems keen on it. While many NATO members do support other kinds of interdependence such as greater consultation within the alliance, they do not support the MLF. It is vitally important not to confuse these two issues.

In Paris on November 7, a meeting of NATO parliamentarians received a report from its military committee describing the MLF as "wasteful" and "superfluous", and the political committee also rejected the MLF. The consensus of the meeting as a whole was against the MLF, and "full support for the plan seems to have been confined to the American and German delegations." (The Times, November 8).

On December 4, at a meeting of the Western European Union, a motion favouring the MLF was rejected, and "The Times" correspondent in Paris reported "a hardening of European opinion against the creation of a multilateral nuclear force."

Against this background of apathy for the proposal, it is time that another hard look was taken at it. The plans for the MLF must not be allowed just to bumble along until the project becomes reality.

The US has presented the MLF as a means of satisfying Germany's ambitions for greater control in the affairs of NATO. On September 27, Mr J. Robert Schaetzel, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Atlantic Affairs, said:

"This cold logic of interdependence means simply that no policy will be stable or viable that discriminates against Germany or fails to meet their positive aspirations ... If the nuclear issue is the Alliance's stubborn political problem, then it too must be solved without discrimination against Germany..

"The leaders of Germany have shown rectitude and responsibility in seeking solutions other than national nuclear deterrence. They have privately and publicy welcomed the MLF as a means of providing Germany with a respectable nuclear role, firmly anchored both within NATO and to US forces."

Mr Schaetzel's praise of Germany for not constructing an independent nuclear force is remarkably naive. As an excellent article on the MLF in I. F. Stone's Weekly said:

"There are many reasons why such a course (of developing an independent German deterrent) would be difficult and dangerous for the Germans. They have the technical capacity; they have the economic resources. But where would they test? Unlike the French and British they have no dependent areas in Africa or the Pacific. To test would be a violation of the test-ban agreement which Bonn accepted so slowly and unwillingly. To produce nuclear weapons on German soil would be a violation of the pledge given by Adenauer in 1954, a pledge embodied in the Western European Treaty of that year and enforceable by its Arms Control Agency. The anger and alarm would be as great in Western as in Eastern Europe if Germany were to set out on this path; it would be seen that the Germans once again, as in 1914 in Belgium, were treating their treaty obligations as scraps of paper."

It becomes clear that Germany's only hope of getting nuclear weapons is through some alliance. Far from stopping Germany getting nuclear weapons, the MLF is one of the very few ways by which Germany could acquire some control over them.

Germany could also possibly get some control over nuclear weapons through the Franco-German entente, marked by the Franco-German treaty of January 1963. But the MLF will in no way diminish the possibility. Mr Schaetzel said on September 27:

"The MLF would ... inevitably make easier the eventual development of a European nuclear force, should this be the desire and within the grasp of the Europeans. For a European nuclear force presupposes the application of the same principles of integration and of organisation and communal structure as those which would govern the MLF. In the existing situation in Europe it could be fairly argued that the multilateral force is the best available way to keep the European nuclear force option open."

Every word of this applies equally to the "Franco-German nuclear force option."

It is not hard to see the significance of all this: Russia and the Eastern European countries have a traditional fear of Germany which is based on bitter experience. They see Germany's acquisition of nuclear weapons in the same way as the US saw the establishment of Soviet nuclear weapons in Cuba.

The problem is especially serious as it is far from clear whether there will be a US veto over the use of the MLF. At a press conference on May 29, 1963, Dean Rusk, US secretary of State, refused to commit himself on this issue, and the West German

Minister of Defence, von Hassel, has been urging that while in the beginning the partners in the MLF must accept the veto power of the US President, as soon as the MLF becomes a military reality, it should be able to persuade the American partner to give up his veto and establish majority rule for the political and military use of the force. „We must show consideration," he was quoted in the "New York Times" of May 28 as saying, "for the French, who will never join this force if its effectiveness can be blunted by the veto of one state."

The discussion in Britain on the MLF has so far been trifling and inadequate. Mr Wilson, for example, has been quoted as saying that he "would accept the MLF if it were the only way to stop Germany from becoming a nuclear power." ("The Times", March 4). In fact, it is almost the only way Germany can become a nuclear power.

The proposal for the MLF is inconsistent with the professed desire for a detente and for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. If the MLF goes forward, we could, within five years, have another crisis like Cuba on our hands, but this time it would not be Russian missiles, but Western missiles, which sparked it off.

FRENCH JOURNALISTS LOOK AT DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

The German Democratic Republic is forging ahead in the industrial field, according to a series of reports published recently in the Paris "Combat" and "Le Monde". Here are some extracts from these articles, written by their special correspondents. Jean Benoit writes in "Combat":

I found the whole country caught up in construction and showing unmistakable signs of progress, often at the cost of almost super-human effort.

East German industrial workers are now producing in 90 days as much as they produced in the whole of 1950. This increase is especially striking in the electric power industry; 5 thousand million kilowatt hours were generated in 1963 — more than the total production in pre-war Germany with its 64 million inhabitants. With 2,670 kilowatt hours per capita, East Germany now ranks second in Europe. West Germany has a per capita production of 2,260 kilowatt hours.

The chemical industry has also developed very rapidly. East Germany now ranks second in the world after the USA in per capita production in this industry. It is the biggest lignite producer in the world and has built up huge industrial combines based on lignite.

East Germany is now paying more attention to the consumer goods industry. Production of refrigerators went up from 90,000 in 1950 to about three times that number in 1963 and production of electric washing machines went up from 800 in 1950 to over 20,000 in 1963.

Although this region was just one big potato-field before the war and it had only five blast furnaces — compared with 120 in West Germany — at the war's end, the GDR has developed within a few years into one of the ten foremost industrial countries in the world.

It is taking a new road which goes beyond the original, strictly doctrinaire conception centred round work and is aiming at a balanced prosperity which, though still lacking in vision and directed entirely towards material prosperity, involves little economic risk and is therefore certain of success.

In the far north of the Republic I saw the first clear picture of this prosperity emerging. The GDR had no big shipyards at all in 1945, but it now ranks sixth in the world in the shipbuilding industry — after Japan, the USSR, England, the USA and West Germany. The GDR built 31 ships (143,000 tons) in 1958 and 82 (482,000 tons) in 1962. By March this year it had already built 100 ships (650,000 tons).

Rostock's pre-war population was 90,000; it will have about 250,000 inhabitants in 1965. The increase is largely due to the construction of the herring fishery combine and the shipyards, with their 35,000 workers. 750 babies were born in Rostock in January and February of this year alone. Ten new suburbs are growing up in Rostock South, one of which is reserved for 1,000 students, 25 per cent of whom are foreigners, mainly Africans.

The problem of foreign relations emerges clearly in Rostock, whose shipping activities link it up with Prague, the Danube and the Adriatic. Rostock has ocean trade links with 82 countries — even more than Hamburg. Here, even more strongly than in Leipzig and almost as strongly as in East Berlin, one senses the urge to link up the new socialist ways with the outside world.

* * *

Roland Delcour writes in "Le Monde":

The milder winter has contributed to improvements in town and country. Although butter is still rationed, the ration is big (half a pound per person per week); some kinds of meat are in short supply, but potatoes and pork, the traditional basic foods in Germany, are again plentiful. Oranges and bananas are still a rarity.

Paradoxically in this country, which claims to be the first socialist state in the history of Germany, there is rationing through prices. The high prices of long-living consumer goods are a more effective obstacle than any rationing. A Trabant, the equivalent of the small post-war French car, costs 7,000 marks, about the same as a big West German car. The Wartburg, an average family car made in Eisenach, costs 16,000 marks, much more than a Mercedes.

Road traffic in 1964 is still so thin that roads seem empty, and all the accompaniments of motor traffic are missing—drive-in restaurants, motels and tank stations, with their lights, flags and coloured signs. Country districts, where few houses have been newly painted since the war, give a gloomy impression, especially at night, since only the bigger towns are lit up.

People living in East Germany certainly notice the improvements, but a visitor from the West must look closely to detect what is changing in the apparently unchanged living conditions in the GDR. *(The writer here details the extensive rebuilding in Dresden and Berlin, the big new opera houses and cultural*

buildings in Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin, and then goes on to describe industrial re-construction).

Rostock also has a deep-sea harbour which has been built up out of nothing; the quays, cranes and big storehouses are all new, even the water which washes up against the mole has not had time to take on the colour and consistency characteristic of big harbours.

Work began on this harbour at the end of 1958; a canal was dug which put the harbour only an hour's journey from the ocean (Hamburg harbour is about 20 miles from the ocean). The first cargoes were unloaded two years later. Turnover was 500,000 tons in 1960 and increased rapidly to 1.8 million tons in 1961, 3.9 million tons in 1962 and 5.1 million tons in 1963; turnover is expected to be 6 million tons in 1964 and 10 million tons by 1970 — a third of Hamburg's present figure.

In addition to ships of the GDR merchant fleet (570,000 tons), almost all of which were built in the new GDR shipyards — the Warnow Wharf in Warnemuende, Mathias Thesen Wharf in Wismar and the expanded Neptune Wharf in Rostock — ships from India, West Africa, Cuba, the Soviet Union and Finland dock regularly at Rostock. GDR shipyards today build ships with tonnages of 4,500, 8,500 and 11,500 and employ about 38,000 workers.

Rostock harbour now includes a mineral oil dock, a bulk goods dock for ships up to 20,000 tons, another for ships up to 10,000 tons, and a dock for critrous fruits.

Investments in the harbour had reached nearly 500 million marks in 1963 and the first section will have cost just under 700 million marks when it is finished in 1967. Goods are transported inland by rail from a newly-built goods station. 5,000 people work in Rostock harbour and turnover in 1963 was valued at 25 million marks. Loading and unloading charges are the same as in Hamburg (12 to 15 marks a ton).

Schwedt, like Rostock, is both an old and a new town. The new town, for several thousand workers employed in the first mineral oil refinery in the GDR, is now going up on what was formerly forest land. The extent of the building site is astonishing; 16 square kilometres in the first stage, 30 square kilometres altogether. The decision to build the refinery was taken in 1959 and work began in 1960 with levelling, laying water-pipes, road-building and setting up the first oil tanks. Investments in the first completed plant total 400 million marks. Two other plants will complete the huge petrochemical combine. Petrol will be only a by-product, for its main job will be to provide raw materials for a broad network of chemical enterprises. In addition to gas, bitumen, lubricating and heating oil, the most important products will be benzol and its derivatives for the artificial fibre, plastics and drugs industries. This new centre of the chemical industry will be as important as the Leuna works in Merseburg, which has almost doubled in size since 1961.

There have been considerable difficulties in construction. An engineer told me that the Esso refinery in Karlsruhe in West Germany, which was finished in 1963 and will produce 3.6 million tons of oil refinery products, took 20 months to build. The refinery in Schwedt will produce 4 million tons of oil refinery products, but it will have taken 68 months and twice as many workers to build. The GDR enterprises building it have not been fully coordinated in their work, but reforms in organisation and management are now being introduced.

The chemical industry now has priority in the GDR's present Seven Year Plan. In the 1950's priority was given to Eisenhüttenstadt (formerly Stalinstadt) with its seven blast furnaces. This was for a long time the show-piece of the GDR. From 1955 onwards the show-piece was the huge "Black Pump" lignite combine in Hoyerswerda, whose products were mainly channelled into the power stations (Lübbenau and Vetschau) and the chemical industry (Buna and Coswig). Hundreds of millions of marks are now being pumped into the chemical industry.

Nothing costs the ordinary consumer in the GDR so much as the construction of all these big enterprises in a part of Germany which had no heavy industry, an insignificant chemical industry, no big shipyards and no big harbour. On the other hand, no country in Europe is so sure of its future, at least on the industrial level. But the present is a time of waiting, and the people of today must do the waiting.

Socialist Unity Party & China

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany called on April 15th for an international Communist conference to discuss the situation created by the attitude and actions of the leaders of the Communist Party of China.

Such a conference could be held in autumn this year, after direct discussions between the Communist Parties of the Soviet Union and China which could be held in May, and a meeting in June and July between representatives of those Communist parties which drafted the declaration for the international conference held in Moscow in 1960.

The proposal was made in the course of a long and often sharp polemical statement defining the position of the Socialist Unity Party in the world Communist movement.

Here are some of the main points made in this official statement:

"We shall not allow anything or anybody to cause us to deviate from the correct general line of the Communist and Workers' parties (laid down in the documents of 1957 and 1960), and the programme of our party adopted at our 6th Party Congress (in January 1963) which applied the principles of Marxism-Leninism to the complicated conditions of struggle in Germany.

"The leaders of the Communist Party of China have turned against this general line. Our party has repeatedly rejected the standpoint of the leaders of the CPC; in this it is in agreement with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

"The people of the GDR are rightly indignant at the policy of the leaders of the CPC, since this policy is very damaging to the cause of peace, democracy and socialism. It has now become clear that the leadership of the CPC wishes to destroy the unity of the Communist world movement. In all basic questions the leaders of the CPC have abandoned the principles of the Moscow Declarations of 1957 and 1960. They have opposed to these principles their own unprincipled platform, an unpleasant mixture of various anti-Marxist and anti-Leninist opinions.

"But they have gone even further. When they realised that the Marx-

ist-Leninist parties, led by the CPSU, rejected every attempt to falsify the general line, they unleashed a fractional campaign against the CPSU and other Marxist-Leninist parties. They even appealed publicly for the overthrow of the tried Marxist-Leninist leadership of Lenin's party and many other Communist parties. They conducted a loud campaign to collect under the dirty flag of fractional struggle all sorts of unprincipled, corrupt and carreerist figures, and Trotskyite, anarchist and sectarian elements.

"Their ideology and their policy is a mixture of lack of principle, petit bourgeois nationalism, adventurism, big-power-chauvinism, and racialism. This policy has become the main danger for the international Communist movement.

"Many working people in the GDR naturally ask the reasons for the anti-Marxist ideas of the leaders of the CPC. In the first place it must be said that these ideas and these splitting activities are reminiscent of similar clashes experienced in the Communist parties, including our party, at various stages in their struggles. The class roots of such occurrences were generally of a petit bourgeois nationalist nature.

"In China the petit bourgeois nationalist influence is particularly strong, as a result of the dominantly agricultural character of the country, the numerical weakness of the working class, and the social composition of the party. Petit bourgeois nationalist ideas have gradually gained the upper hand in the policy of the leaders of the CPC.

"Today petit bourgeois nationalism and big-power-chauvinism have become characteristic of the policy of the leadership of the CPC.

"In analysing the reasons for the attitude of the leaders of the CPC, our party cannot ignore the fact that they defend the Stalin cult of the personality, something alien to Marxism-Leninism.

"Today, only a policy of peaceful coexistence can serve the interests of the German nation. That is why our party, our government, and the National Front repeatedly take the initiative to normalise the relations between the two German states, and between the GDR and West Berlin, and to further a policy of common sense and goodwill. The historic mission of the GDR is to create, by means of all-round construction of socialism, the conditions in which the forces of peace and progress can triumph in the whole of Germany.

"It is easy to imagine what would have happened if the Socialist Unity Party of Germany had pursued an ultra-left, adventurist and anti-humanist policy (such as that pursued by the CPC). Such a policy would have helped the West German revanchist, who are thirsting for aggression. It would not have been possible to ensure peaceful construction of socialism in the GDR, which proceeded for such a long period under the conditions imposed by open frontiers. If we had followed the line of the CPC, this would have encouraged the aggressive forces of West German imperialism to new and bigger acts of provocation. Such a policy would inevitably have led to war, to the launching of an atomic world war.

"What aims are the leaders of the CPC in fact pursuing? Are they really interested in the triumph of the world revolution? The answer is plain: they are gambling with the fate of international revolution for the sake of their own interests, which are dictated by big-power chauvinism. This is the only explanation for their rejection of phased disarmament and their desire for the atom bomb. They declare that possession of nuclear weapons is the criterion for the sovereignty of a state. This naturally has nothing to do with Marxism-Leninism and international revolution. Wittingly or unwittingly they are playing into the hands of the West German militarists who demand atom weapons.

"The leaders of the CPC recommend that fraternal parties concentrate their struggle exclusively against US imperialism. They have a theory that West German, French, British and Japanese imperialism are 'only' a fairly unimportant 'intermediate zone', a 'shadow' of US imperialism. This theory ignores the notoriously aggressive nature of West German imperialism. And the leaders of the CPC dare to present such a policy as a revolutionary policy to the German people and the people of the world who have so often in the past fallen victim to the rapaciousness of German imperialism."

The statement of the Socialist Unity Party then outlined the economic policy of the GDR, aimed at making life better and richer for all, thus making a contribution in the international competition between socialism and capitalism. The statement continued:

"But the leaders of the CPC describe this successful GDR policy as revisionist, as a policy allegedly leading to a 'restoration of capitalism'. Do the Chinese leaders really expect the working people of the GDR to abandon their economic policy? Do they expect us to ignore the objective laws of socialist construction and inaugurate an adventurist 'big leap forward'?

"If our party had attempted to overleap arbitrarily the necessary social stages of development, we would never have emerged from the ruins of 1945.

"In the national economy, as in the private household, it is only possible to fix aims which can be achieved on a firm basis. If we had not taken this into consideration, then our revolution would have been nothing but an equal distribution of poverty; this would have devalued the ideas of socialism and communism in the eyes of millions of working people.

"Socialist construction cannot mean a primitive 'levelling', but the Chinese leaders think and act otherwise. After the policy of the 'Great Leap' had thrown the economic development of China back by years, they made a fetish out of their poverty in socialism, in clear contradiction to the ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

"In 1960, our Party rejected attempts to make propaganda in the German Democratic Republic for the Chinese 'People's Communes'. If we had abandoned the tried path of gradual development of cooperative work, and had taken the path

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of 'People's Communes', this would undoubtedly have worsened our situation."

The Socialist Unity Party statement sketched the history of the relations between German Communists and the Chinese revolution, which led after 1949 to close fraternal relations between the GDR and China. The statement continued:

"Our Party continued to pursue this policy after differences of opinion between the leaders of the CPC and the Communist world movement.

"However, the Chinese leaders extended the ideological differences into the sphere of governmental relations. They knowingly worked to worsen relations between our two states. The reduction of trade and, for instance, the cessation of supplies of important raw materials led to considerable difficulties for our economy. At the same time, the Chinese leaders saw fit to strengthen their trade relations with the capitalist countries.

"Despite this distressing attitude on the part of the leaders of the CPC, our party maintains its policy of friendship for the Chinese people. It attempts not only to maintain state relations, but to further such relations. The Socialist Unity Party expresses the hope that in this question at least the Chinese leaders will pursue a sensible policy.

"In view of the splitting activities of the Chinese leaders, the members of our Party and the citizens of our Republic are gravely concerned about what should be done.

"The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party believes that a new conference of the communist parties has become necessary. For this reason it supports the proposal of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union that delegations of the CPSU and the CPC should meet in May; that in June and July there should be discussions between the representatives of those communist parties which formed the drafting commission for the Moscow Conference in 1960; and that a conference of all communist parties should be held in autumn 1964."

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You Ask - We Answer

BINGO IN THE GDR?

"Are there any football pools, betting or gambling in the GDR?"
Miss M. B., Birmingham

There is quite a lot of betting and gambling in the German Democratic Republic, but no over-all figures are available on the sums spent on these pastimes. You can lose your money on the horses at two race-courses near Berlin, but the most popular forms of betting are football pools, similar to those in Britain, and various forms of "Lotto", in which you pick numbers which you hope may come up in weekly draw. In addition, there is an old-fashioned lottery in which you just buy a ticket and hope for the best.

All these various forms of taking a chance are nationally owned or municipally owned, and nobody makes a fortune out of betting, with the exception of the very few winners who may get pay-outs ranging up to about 500,000 marks (about £ 45,000).

In all the various lotteries (and we might as well include the football pools as a lottery, though there may be a slight element of skill here which is absent in the lottery pure and simple), 60 per cent of the takings are paid out to winners; there is a flat government tax of 10 per cent on the take, administrative expenses are kept below 10 per cent and the remainder, of 20 per cent or over, is devoted to reconstruction and sport. One lottery devotes its profits to sport, financing Olympic teams, building stadiums etc.; another puts the money into housing; and a specifically Berlin lottery has played a major part in financing the construction of the fine new East Berlin Zoo, and parks, swimming pools and open air cafes all over Democratic Berlin.

Running expenses can be kept as low as 10 per cent because it is of no advantage to a nationally-owned enterprise to spend much money on administration; there is also no cut-throat competition, with the subsequent big advertising bills, between the various lotteries. The Berlin lottery, for instance, which takes in an average of nearly one million marks a week, has a full-time staff of only thirty, plus a few dozen part-time assistants who sort the betting slips on one or two days a week.

The lottery slips for all lotteries cost 50 pfennigs (about 9 d.) and you can buy as many as you like. If you want to take part in the popular "6 out of 49" lottery, for instance, you buy a slip and mark off the six numbers you fancy. The local lottery office, generally a tobacconist or newsagent, clips the numbers on the triplicate coupon, handing you back one and sending in the other two to lottery headquarters. If your numbers turn up in the weekly draw on Sunday, you win your prize. If all six of your numbers turn up, you may win as much as 500,000 marks, though the pay-off is not so high every week; if you have five numbers you get less, and so on down to two or three correct numbers, when you will probably get only a few marks.

The most popular of these lotteries took in nearly 2 thousand million bets in the past ten years; about 570 million marks was paid out in prizes, and housing and sport was financed to the tune of 200 million marks.

What happens to winnings? They are not subject to income or property tax so long as they remain in the bank and are not re-invested, and they accumulate the usual 3 per cent interest paid on bank savings.

Since winners invariably prefer to remain anonymous, it is not easy to find out what they do with their money, but from what lottery officials hear when they hand out winnings, most people appear to be very cautious. Some say they must go home and think about it before they make any plans, others say they want to buy a car or a house first. Most winners take out the odd thousands and deposit larger sums. Older people sometimes decide to settle sums on their children or open savings accounts for grandchildren, and many give quite large sums to various good causes, including the Society for the Protection of Animals.

People very seldom seem to give up their jobs on the spur of the moment and go on the spree, although some cases have come to light — like the window-cleaner who won 12,000 marks, stopped work for some months, drank his way steadily through the money and then went back to work.

Just in case British and US readers are interested — Bingo is unknown in the GDR.

GDR & Apartheid

The GDR has ceased to trade with the Republic of South Africa, Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the GDR State Council informed the British Anti-Apartheid Movement in a letter in mid-April.

"The government and people of the GDR are resolutely opposed to all forms of racial discrimination and colonialism," Ulbricht stated.

U. S. Youths See E. Berlin School

By Joan Becker

Everybody feels today the need for more day-to-day contacts between East and West. A pleasant example of this occurred in mid-April, when a group of fourteen exchange students from the USA who are attending West Berlin high schools for one year spent a day in the Alexander von Humboldt High School in Democratic Berlin.

It was their idea in the first place. They had spoken with Professor Warren, Foreign Affairs Representative of the Friends' Service Unit in the two German states, and it was he who had arranged their visit through the GDR Peace Council.

Mrs Warren, who has often visited the GDR before and had her children in a Free German Youth Camp last summer, came with the group although, considering they had been in Germany only eight months, they all spoke surprisingly good German and needed no interpreter.

When they arrived at the school they were taken up to the staff room first, where the Principal and Vice-Principal gave them a quick briefing on GDR educational policy and the importance attached to polytechnical education in all schools. The Humboldt School is a twelve-year extended high school concentrating more on science and technology, and it trains its pupils mainly for careers in engineering — chemical engineering in particular. A big proportion of them are taking their polytechnical training, which runs parallel with academic work, either in a chemical engineering enterprise or in a factory which makes refrigerating plant.

The young Americans asked all sorts of questions: about the chances of getting into university, the branches of study open to them, the distribution of school children in the different types of school (the vast majority in the GDR now attend ten-year high school, a very few still leave school at fourteen, and 12 to 14 per cent enter extended high school).

They were very much interested in polytechnical education, since this kind of integrated practical training was new to them and some of them were doubtful about it; they felt that children had to make up their minds too soon. Here the Principal explained that simple forms of polytechnical education begin very early in all GDR schools, and advice on choosing a career and visits to various industrial enterprises starts in the 7th and 8th class, so that by the time children reach the age of fourteen they have a fair idea about the way various industries and enterprises work; they are therefore in a better position to choose what they would like to do.

Some doubts were also expressed about the value of practical training for young people who intended to become doctors, teachers, artists or scientists. One the main aims of polytechnical education, the Principal explained, had from the outset been to try to bring all children into closer contact with every-day working life; it would do a future doctor nothing but good, for example, to have worked for some time in a factory and learned something about the problems of ordinary workers. One of the American girls remarked here that there were frequent discussions in the US about university students' isolation from everyday life.

Returning to the question about children having to decide too soon what they intended to do in life, the Principal told them about the various special schools in the GDR; for example, a few special sports schools and schools specialising in languages, particularly Russian, were set up some years ago, and new ventures are the special schools attached to the Colleges of Music, and a special school concentrating on chemistry (in Halle, the centre of the chemical industry). These all have the same basic syllabus, but children talented in one of these subjects have the chance to follow it up more intensively.

There was also a question about what happens to children leaving school at sixteen. The Principal described the two courses open to sixteen-year-olds; they could either take two or three years of purely vocational training when they left school or a three-year vocational course combined with standard high school education to bring them up to the same level as those leaving school at eighteen; this was especially valuable, he said, for so-called "late developers" who had not been selected at fourteen to attend extended high school.

After about an hour's discussion, the group divided up to listen in to various lessons. Three girls, who themselves play instruments, elected to join a 10th year music lesson. They obviously enjoyed it, for it was an interesting hour on the development of the sonata; two pupils played a sonata for flute and harpsichord (piano in this case) by Telemann to illustrate the early sonata, and the music teacher herself played the first movement of a Mozart piano sonata to illustrate the later sonata.

Half a dozen others chose an 11th year English lesson — on the American Constitution — which developed into a lively discussion, led with tact by the English master, on free-said frankly that racial discrimination (one of the American girls said frankly that racial discrimination was a "black spot"), differences in the development of the Northern and Southern states, and the circumstances surrounding the murder of President Kennedy.

Others listened in to a 12th year history lesson dealing with the foundation of the GDR in 1949, much of which was new to them; some chose mathematics, geography or biology. It was more difficult for them to draw comparisons here, because of the different sequence in which US high schools deal with subject matter, and also because US high school pupils can start specialising earlier. General basic education in GDR extended high schools continues right up to "Abitur"; although emphasis varies, the basic subject matter is the same and teaching in all subjects is spread over the entire four years or, in a few cases, three years.

After two hours of lessons, the group gathered again in the school club-room for informal discussion with some of the pupils from various classes. All sorts of things were discussed here — how the GDR government functions, the significance of the five political parties and the National Front, the Berlin Wall, German reunification, passes between East and West Berlin, the Allied Travel Office, and even what the GDR thinks about China.

It was quite clear that there was a very real interest and desire for information on both sides. These young Americans got on surprisingly easily with their opposite numbers in this GDR high school — probably because of their remarkably good command of the language.

This was clearly not going to be their last visit to Democratic Berlin, either, for the group disintegrated as soon as they left the school, some going off to get tickets for the Berliner Ensemble and others to have a look at the city centre.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

In recent issues we have given quite a lot of information about ODESSA, the underground SS organisation in West Germany, which has conducted a series of sensational "rescues" of former SS criminals threatened with prosecution, and arranged the "suicides" of a number of others who were believed ready to talk too much about the crimes of their war-time comrades.

On February 21st GERMAN REPORT disclosed exclusively that ODESSA was becoming very interested in the case of Hans-Walter Zech-Nenntwich, former SS lieutenant, awaiting trial on war crimes charges in Braunschweig Prison, West Germany.

On April 20th, Braunschweig Court sentenced Zech-Nenntwig to four years imprisonment for his part in the killing of many thousands of Jews in Pinsk in 1941.

On the night of April 22nd—23rd, ODESSA managed to spring him from Braunschweig Prison. It was obviously a professionally-organised job, since the SS prisoner made his way through eight locked doors without leaving any trace.

Our exclusive forecast of ODESSA intervention was wrong on one point; we suggested that ODESSA was going to "suicide" Zech-Nenntwich, fearing he might talk. He obviously kept his mouth shut, and as a reward they "escaped" him instead.

The operations of ODESSA are not as difficult as they may sound; the whole police and prison apparatus in West Germany is honeycombed with former SS officers, very many of whom are ready to help the nazi underground.

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An internal squabble in the West German Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would not normally be worthy of notice but a recent case is interesting. The local branches of the Society in Hamburg, Hannover and several other places, have announced that they will leave the country-wide association during the period that a certain Dr Stolting is president. Who is Dr Stolting? He may be in favour of the prevention of cruelty to animals, but documents which have recently come to light show that he feels differently about humans. Nazi files, recently unearthed in the cellars of the courthouse in Bydgoszcz, where the nazis maintained one of their notorious "Special Courts" during the nazi occupation of Poland, show that Dr Stolting served for a period as prosecutor in such a court.

By John Peet

Only a part of the archives have survived the war, but these files show that Dr Stolting demanded the death sentence in at least three cases for Poles accused of minor offences which would normally be punished by a fine or a few weeks imprisonment; in dozens of other cases he sent Poles to "punishment camps" from which few emerged alive.

Dr Stolting was the prosecutor, for instance, in the case of the 13-year-old Polish girl Halina Schrayda, accused of giving a British POW a handful of sweets. She was sent to "punishment camp"; it is not known whether she survived.

And what does Dr Stolting do today, apart from presiding at the meetings of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals? He is one of the defence lawyers at the current trial of the SS guards at Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

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When I was a cub journalist, very many years ago, on a local paper in the outer suburbs of London, I remember we had a rigid office rule; we only reported the speeches by local worthies at functions involving food and drink if we were invited to partake. Some organisations which tried to invite the press to come and hear the speeches after the dinner was over discovered that it did not pay off.

I am glad to be able to report that when "Interflug", the civil airline of the German Democratic Republic, launched a new direct airline from Berlin to Zagreb and Belgrade in Yugoslavia in mid-April, they did not stint with the food. Together with a party of GDR journalists, I boarded one of the ninetyseater Soviet-built Ilyushin 18 turbojet planes of Interflug at Schönefeld Airport, just outside East Berlin in the mid-morning, and was back again after a lightning trip to Yugoslavia in the early evening. My main memory of the trip is that we seemed to be eating all the way, and when we got to Belgrade, there was the cocktail party, (with a couple of short speeches, of course).

But I would like to suggest to the public relations men at Interflug that they include at least a short bus ride at the destination. It is rather frustrating to have visited Yugoslavia, and to know nothing about the country except that Belgrade has a very excellent modern airport, and some of the most beautiful air hostesses I have ever seen.

Incidentally Interflug (which was called Lufthansa until a year ago, when the name was changed to prevent repeated confusion with the West German line of the same name) is very rapidly expanding its services throughout eastern Europe. Last year it carried nearly 500,000 passengers, and most of the longer flights are now carried out with the swift Ilyushin 18 turbo-jets, which compare very well with western planes of the same class.

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In a month or two you are likely to read a short note in the more serious newspapers that an American historian named Professor David L. Hoggan has been awarded a whole cluster of West German prizes and distinctions.

There is nothing surprising about this; eminent scholars often travel about collecting honorary degrees and prizes of various sorts.

The odd thing about the prizes now being prepared for Professor Hoggan, although they have high-sounding names like "Leopold-von-Ranke Prize" and "Ulrich-von-Hutten Prize" after famous German historians, are not to be found in any of the academic registers; they have in fact been dreamed up by groups of West German professors and businessmen for the specific purpose of awarding them to Professor Hoggan.

This gentleman is little known in the United States, but he has become a favourite recently in right-wing circles in West Germany. He managed this by writing an extraordinarily bad book about the origins of the Second World War. It was so bad that all the reputable United States publishers rejected it, though they will, notoriously, publish almost anything by a professor if it is long enough and has enough footnotes. Finally, two years ago, he managed to get his book, entitled "Der erzwungene Krieg" (The Enforced War), published in West Germany.

Since then it has become a bible for the old nazis, the new nazis, and unreconstructed German militarists generally, for Professor Hoggan manages to prove, to his and their satisfaction at least, that Hitler had nothing to do with starting the Second World War.

So now Professor Hoggan is going to reap his reward, and garner some phoney West German prizes.

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